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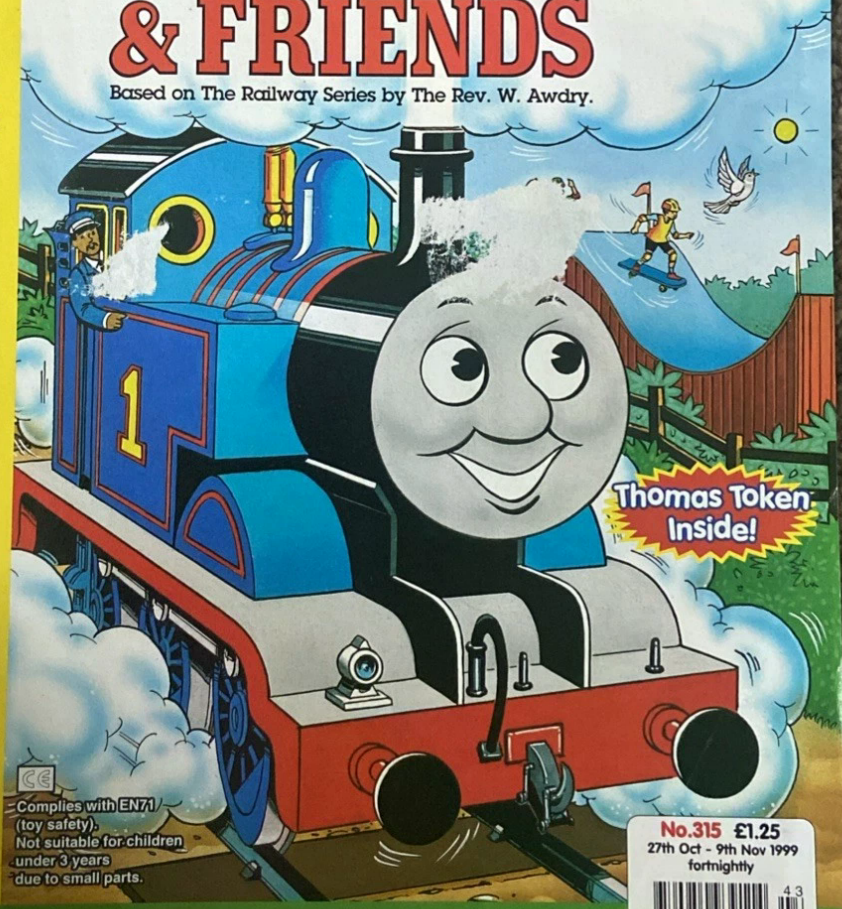
Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS



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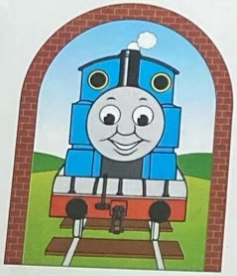
Puzzles · Reading · Colouring

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

All aboard with...

Let's read together and
have lots of fun,
With Thomas and all
his friends too.
There are stories, puzzles
and prizes to be won,
Just look what's in store for you!



Note for grown-ups

Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends is designed to encourage early reading skills and all round child development using stories and activities involving Thomas and his friends.

The magazine is story led encouraging parental support in learning.

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THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

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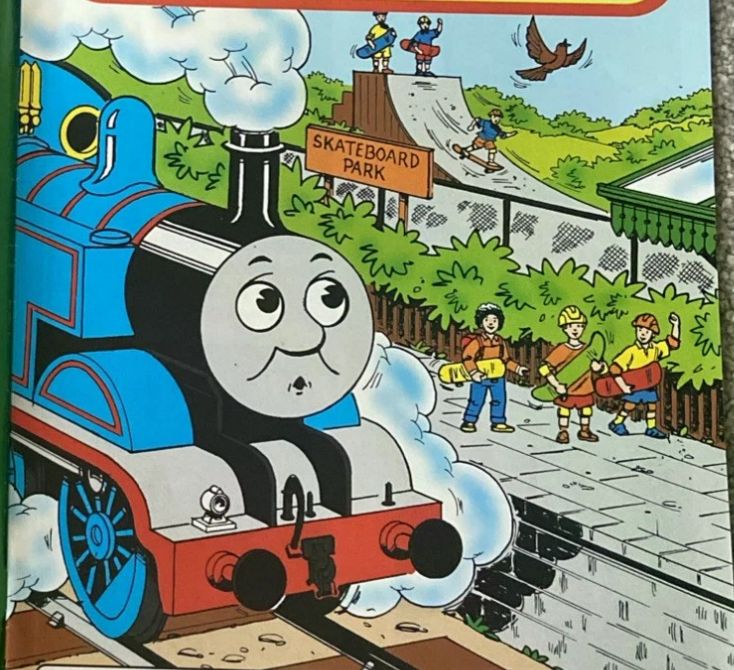
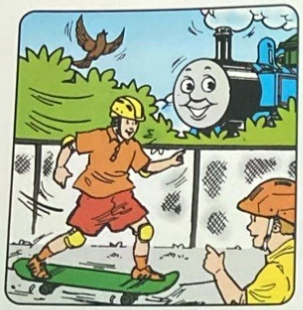
Ups and Downs

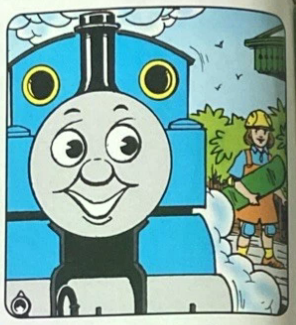


1. One sunny afternoon, Thomas took a group of children to a skateboard park. It was close to the station. So as he pulled up, Thomas could see a steep metal ramp.

2. "Thanks for the lift, Thomas," a boy called. Everyone stepped out of the carriages onto the platform. Others were already on the ramp. They whizzed up and down.

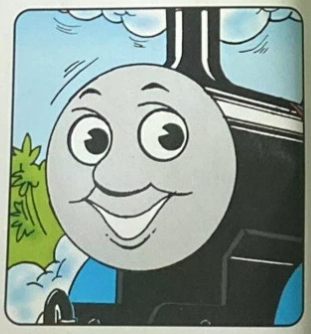


3. Thomas could hardly believe how fast the skateboarders went. They all wore special helmets and pads for safety. "It must take practice to do that!" gasped Thomas.

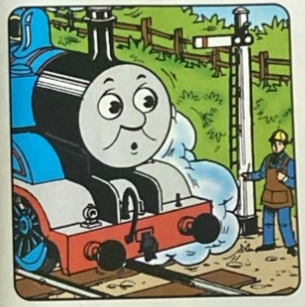


4. "Yes, but it's really good fun," said a girl who was standing nearby. "It's a pity you can't try it or you'd find out." "Me? No, thanks!" laughed Thomas, setting off again.

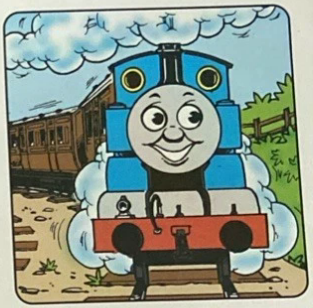
5. Shortly, he returned to collect all the children. Thomas watched one boy balancing on his skateboard. He hurtled down the ramp, then up the other side.



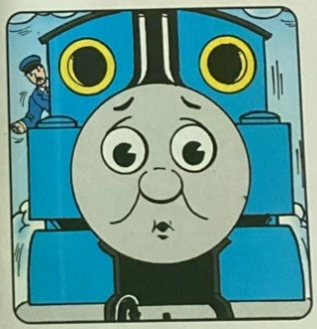
6. The boy waved to Thomas. "Cinders and ashes!" gasped Thomas. "I'd rather ride on my rails than that ramp!" Soon, everyone was back inside Thomas' carriages.



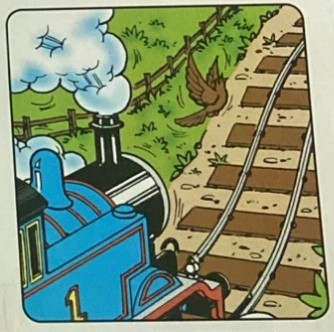
7. Then he set off again. But soon he had to pull up urgently. Engineers were working on the line. "What's wrong?" called Thomas. "A broken rail!" they said.



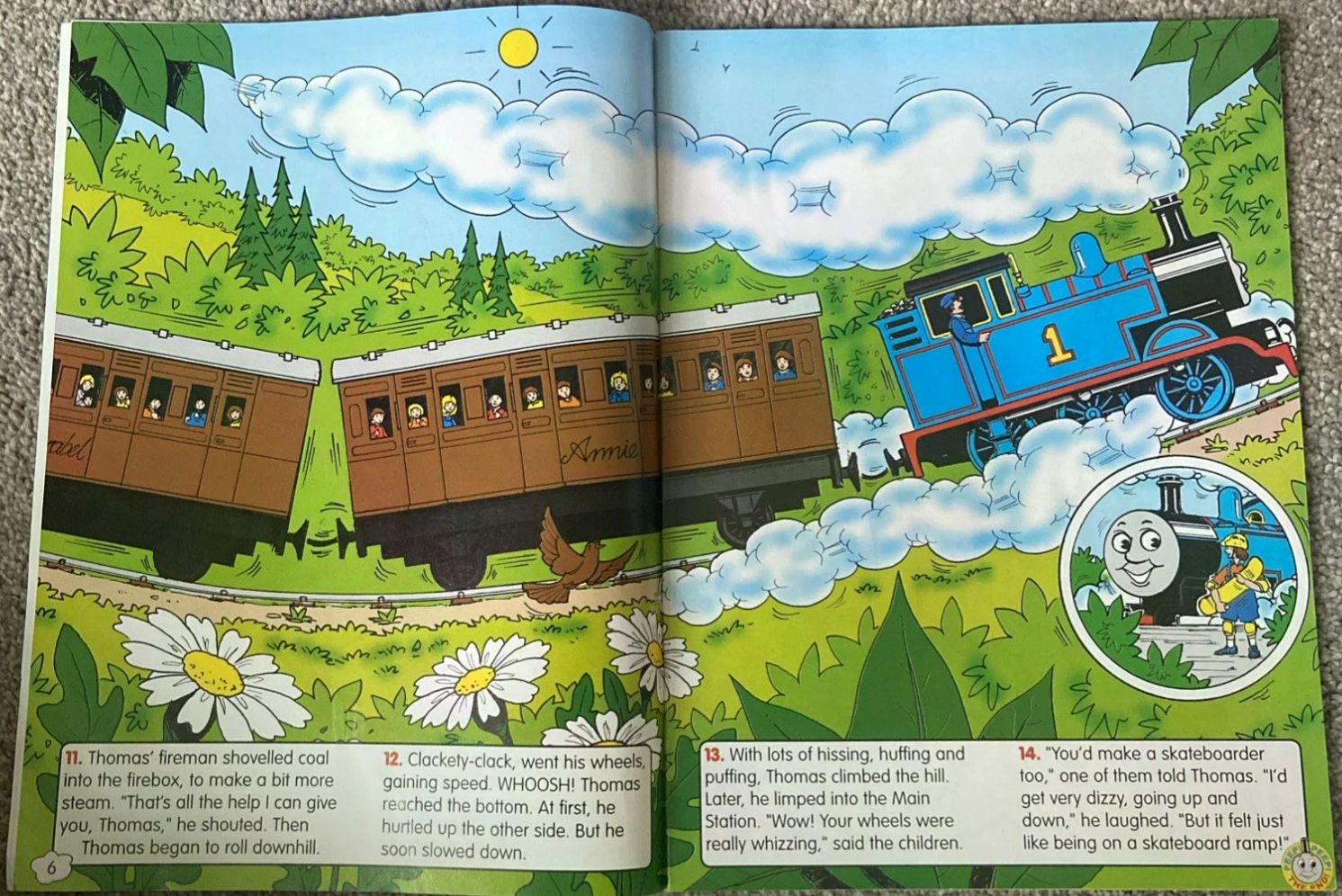
8. Luckily, Daisy had seen it while she went rolling smoothly past on the other track. Thomas had to back up and go on a loopline. "I haven't been this way for ages," he thought.



9. Now, Thomas was running late. He hoped to get back on schedule. But there was more trouble. He started to lose steam. "I can make it! I must make it!" he wheezed.



10. As he came round a bend, Thomas saw the track went steeply downhill then up again. "I'll need as much speed as possible if I'm to reach the top!" he called.



11. Thomas' fireman shovelled coal into the firebox, to make a bit more steam. "That's all the help I can give you, Thomas," he shouted. Then Thomas began to roll downhill.

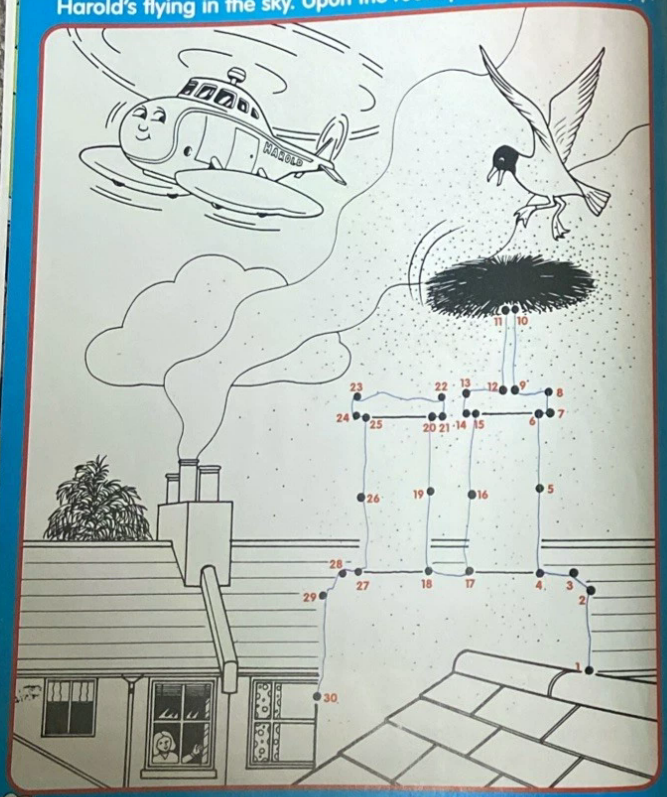
12. Clackety-clack, went his wheels, gaining speed. WHOOSH! Thomas reached the bottom. At first, he hurtled up the other side. But he soon slowed down.

13. With lots of hissing, huffing and puffing, Thomas climbed the hill. Later, he limped into the Main Station. "Wow! Your wheels were really whizzing," said the children.

14. "You'd make a skateboarder too," one of them told Thomas. "I'd get very dizzy, going up and down," he laughed. "But it felt just like being on a skateboard ramp!"

Dot to Dot!

Harold's flying in the sky. Upon the rooftops what does he spy?



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Milk Trains

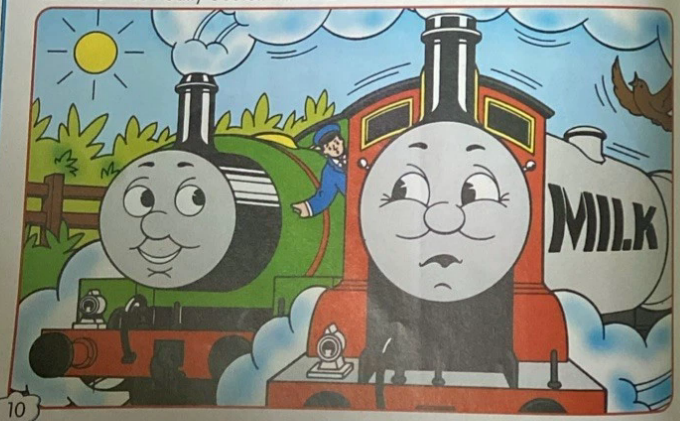
James was a proud engine who liked to carry passengers. But the Fat Controller had asked him to pull the milk train. James was cross. He steamed along, hissing and puffing grumpily. At the Junction, he slowed down to pass Percy who was pulling some trucks on another line.

"Bumping buffers! What's a smart, red engine like you, doing pulling messy milk tank wagons?" he teased.

James fumed all the more. He wanted everyone, especially a cheeky little engine like Percy, to think he was Really Useful. "I'll have you know it's a very important job," snorted James. "I must deliver this milk for bottling. People all over the Island of Sodor want to buy fresh milk every day from the shops or their milkman. Even our drivers need milk for their tea when they stop for a tea-break!"

Percy looked really surprised. "I didn't think the milk train was so special," he gasped. "If I ask the Fat Controller nicely, I'm sure he'll let me take it tomorrow."

When Percy returned to the Main Station, he went to speak to the Fat Controller.



"Please, sir, it's not fair that James always pulls the milk train," protested Percy. "I'm sure I'm strong enough to do it, if I try very hard."

The Fat Controller shook his head. "I'm sorry, Percy," he replied. "But I've a different task for you tomorrow. I'll tell you about it in the morning."

Next moment, James arrived. "Well," he asked Percy. "What did the Fat Controller say?"

When Percy told him, James puffed grandly.

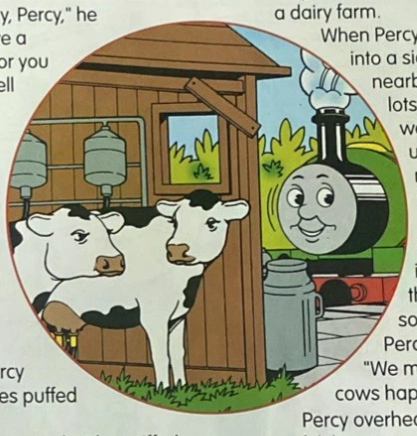
"There! I was right!" he sniffed. "The Fat Controller doesn't trust you with the milk train!"

That night, Percy was so fed up he could hardly sleep. Next morning, he watched James roll out of the Main Station yard with the milk train.

"I'm off to fetch the milk," he called to Percy. "But don't look so sulky. At least, you can carry water in your tanks! Ha-ha!"

"Pah! James is getting too big for his buffers!" fumed Percy.

Then the Fat Controller came to tell him to collect a shipment from the Big Harbour. Percy was very surprised to learn it was animal feed. Shortly, he delivered some to a dairy farm.



When Percy pulled into a siding nearby, he saw lots of cows were lined up in the milking shed.

"This animal feed is for them," the farmer's son, Tom, told Percy's driver. "We must keep our cows happy!"

Percy overheard. Now he felt happy, too. Soon he met James returning to the Main Station yard with the milk train.

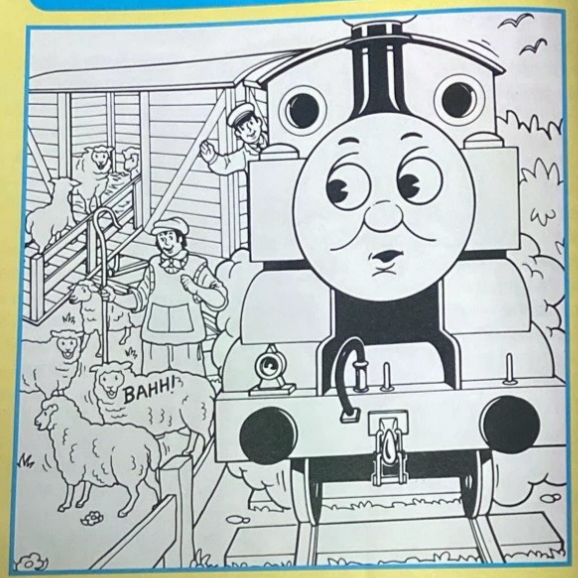
"Pheeep! Another load of milk delivered safely," boasted James.

"Pip! Pip! It's not as important as my job today," peeped Percy, proudly. James was puzzled until Percy explained.

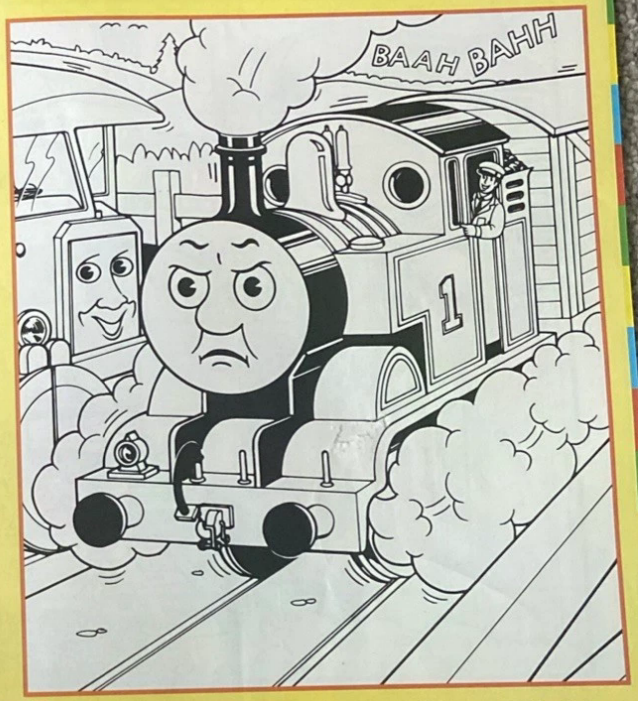
"It's simple!" he laughed. "If I didn't deliver feed to the cows, there'd be no milk for you to carry on the milk train!"

A read & colour story

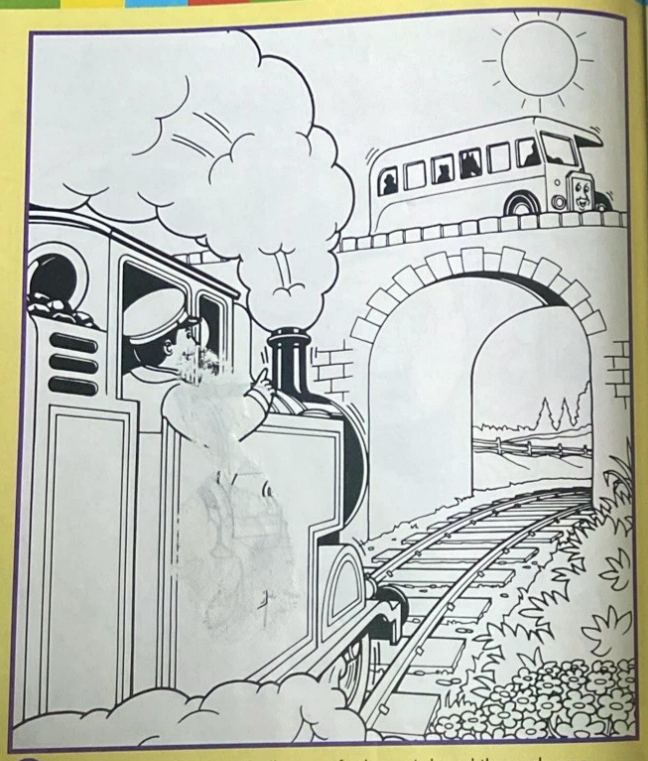
Animal Crackers



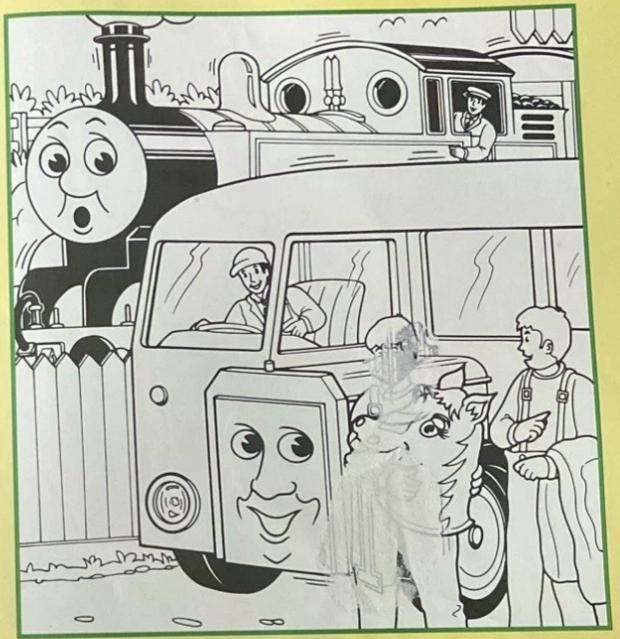
1 One morning, Thomas was given a special job by the Fat Controller. Many of Farmer Collett's large flock of sheep had to be taken to the harbour for export. Thomas was coupled to lots of livestock trucks ready to transport them. When he arrived at the farm, Thomas saw that the sheep were very excited. As farm-hands loaded them aboard the trucks, the noise from the bleating sheep was deafening. Thomas hoped that they would be more quiet on the journey.



2 The sheep became louder when Thomas set off. Soon, Thomas' noisy train came to a level crossing. Bertie was at the gates. "What's this, a woolly express?" joked the bus as Thomas rolled past. But Bertie saw that his friend was in no mood for joking. The noise from the sheep was annoying Thomas. "You should be like me," called Bertie, "I never take animal passengers."



3 Thomas worked hard all day. He was very tired as he puffed back to the sheds. On the way, he saw Bertie again, on a bridge above the tracks. For a moment, he was puzzled. He thought he saw the shadow of a horse's head through one of Bertie's windows. "Cinders and ashes! It can't be. Is that a horse on board Bertie?" gasped Thomas. But then he whooshed under the bridge and lost sight of his friend.



4 "My tired eyes are playing tricks on me," thought Thomas. "Bertie only carries humans." Yet when Thomas was in the Main Station yard, Bertie pulled up at the bus stop - and Thomas saw the horse passenger again! It looked as if a human was leading it off the bus. The human and the horse both came to Bertie's door, and Thomas understood at last. It was only a horse costume, like actors wear in pantomimes. "This is as near as I'll ever get to carrying animals!" chuckled Bertie. "You fooled me for a while," replied Thomas. "But then you've always been one for horseplay!"

The end

All About

Sir Handel works with Peter Sam and Duke on the narrow gauge railway. He is a bit of a know-it-all and thinks that he should be the boss. He has been known to throw tantrums and he can be rather bad tempered at times. Despite all that he always gets his work done. Sir Handel used to be named Falcon when he worked on another railway that closed down.

Sir Handel

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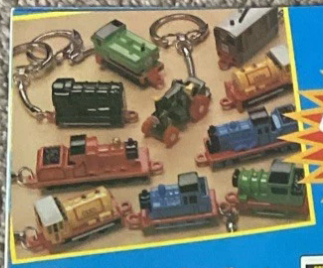

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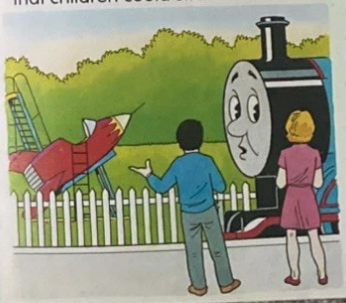
Mars Mission!

Thomas was taking Stephen, Bridget and Lady Hatt to Wellsworth Station. Nearby was a park with a children's playground. Stephen and Bridget always looked forward to going on the swings and roundabout there. But today they were in for a surprise.

The playground had a brand new attraction. It was a big rocket that children could sit in and pretend to fly. Stephen spotted it first from Clarabel's window as Thomas pulled slowly into Wellsworth station.



"Wow! Look at that!" cried Stephen. "I must have a go!"

"We can pretend to be astronauts," said Bridget, excitedly.

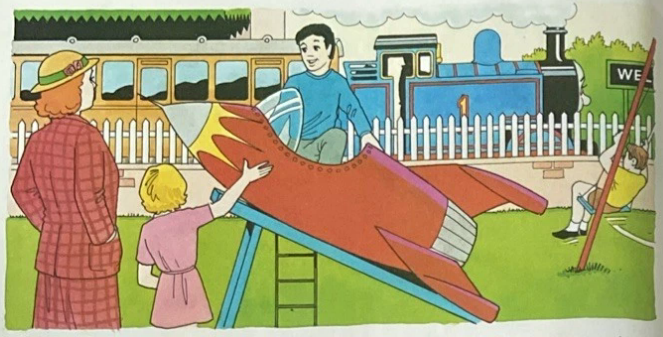
Thomas saw the new ride, too. But he did not know what it was. He asked his two young friends about it when they stepped out of Clarabel onto the platform.

"It's a rocket," Stephen told Thomas. "Stand by for take-off! I'm going on a trip to Mars!"

Thomas was even more puzzled than ever.

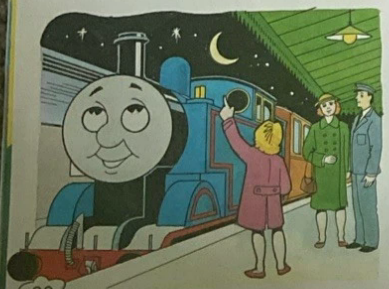
"Where's that?" he asked.

"It's another planet, out in space, beyond the sky!" said Bridget, pointing upwards.



Thomas looked surprised. While he took on water, the tank engine watched Stephen step into the rocket. But then the guard blew his whistle and Thomas had to get underway again. It was Daisy who collected the children, later.

Thomas did not see Stephen again that day. However, in the evening, Lady Hatt was taking Bridget to see a famous ballet at a theatre. By now, it was getting dark.



Meanwhile, Stephen had stayed at home with the Fat Controller to watch a programme about engines on television.

Bridget met Thomas at the Main Station while Lady Hatt checked the train times with the Stationmaster.

"Where's Stephen?" called Thomas.

Bridget playfully teased the engine. She pointed to the sky that was full of twinkling stars. The moon was shining now, too.

"Up there," she replied, "beyond the moon!"

"Bumping buffers!" gasped Thomas. "Hasn't he come back from Mars yet?"

Suddenly, Bridget noticed a shooting star go whizzing across the darkness, leaving a sparkling trail in the sky.

"Look! That must be his rocket now!" she told Thomas.

He was just in time to see the shooting star, too, before it faded.

Next moment, Lady Hatt returned and hurried Bridget into one of Thomas' faithful carriages.

Bridget and her grandmother really enjoyed the ballet. But, afterwards, it was Percy who collected them.

Next day, Stephen and Bridget went to the playground in the park.

"I must have another ride on that rocket!" said Stephen.

Sure enough, Thomas delivered them as usual. But when the children waved goodbye to him at Wellsworth Station, Thomas whistled loudly.

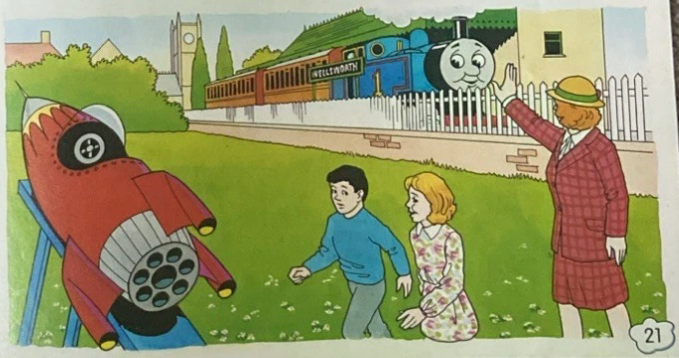
"Peep! Peep! I wouldn't go on that rocket today," he warned, "or you'll miss the last train home."

As he entered the park with his sister and grandmother, Stephen looked thoughtful.

"Thomas sounds as if he thinks that rocket is real," he said.

"I can't imagine why!" Bridget smiled, mischievously.

THE END



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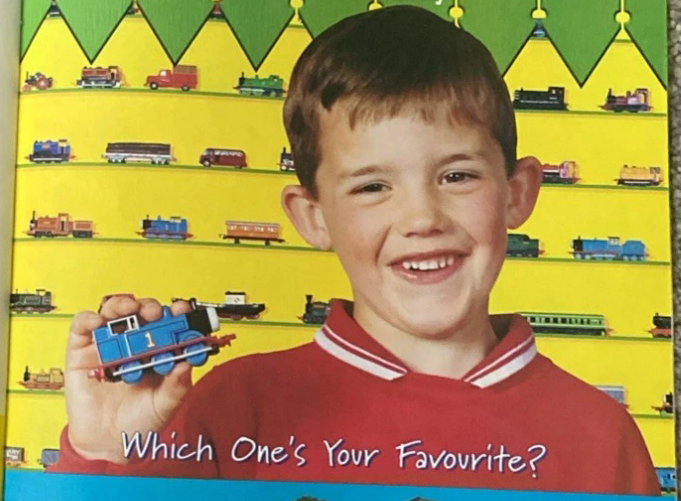
Percy
Gordon
Thomas

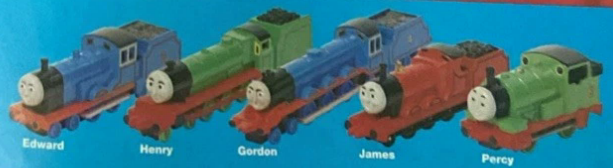
Write your answer on a postcard along with your name and address and send it to: Egmont Fleetway Ltd., 315 Dekkertoys Comp, PO Box 29087, London, WC1H 9XE.

THOMAS
THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

"My Favourite Thomas Toy is
THOMAS
Because he's cheeky"



Which One's Your Favourite?

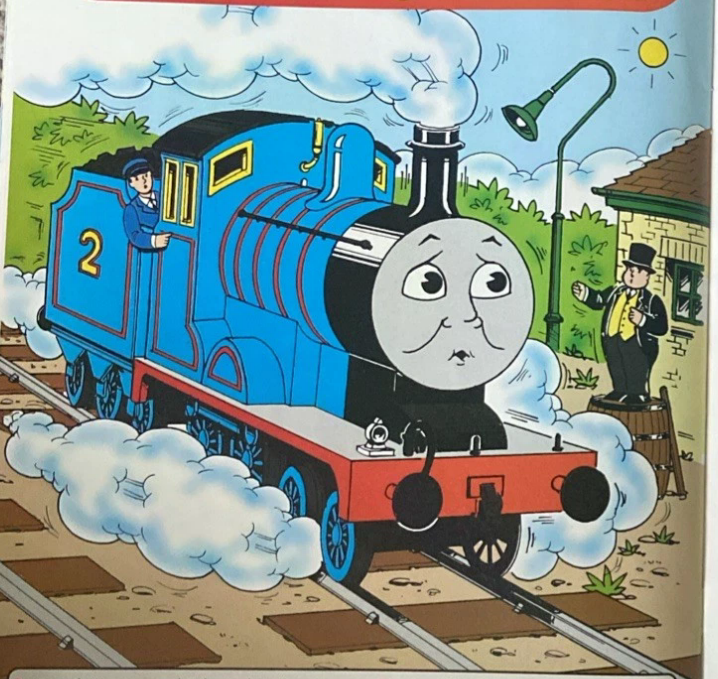


ERTL

AVAILABLE FROM ALL GOOD TOY STORES

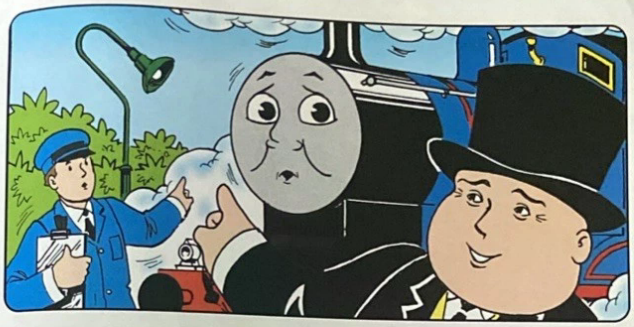
Britt

Sweeping Clean



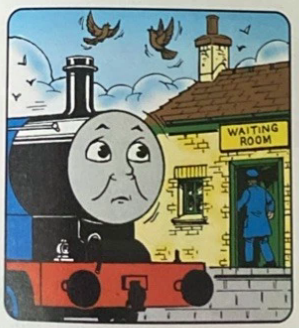
1. "Oooh!" groaned Edward as he came rolling slowly into the Main Station yard. He wheezed and panted noisily. The Fat Controller hurried to see what was wrong.

2. Edward had been sent to deliver some goods trucks. He was late back. "I'm sorry, sir," Edward told The Fat Controller. "But I've boiler ache and I don't feel at all well!"

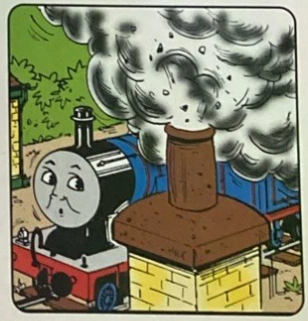


3. Edward looked sorry for himself. "Never mind," replied The Fat Controller, kindly. "I'm sure you'll be better when your boiler is serviced. You must go to the Works."

4. "I'll send you as soon as I can," The Fat Controller explained. "But the Works urgently needs some more staff." Engines were already there waiting to be cleaned.

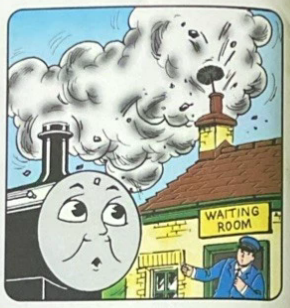


5. Next morning, Oliver took over Edward's tasks while Edward stayed in the yard. The weather had turned chilly so the Stationmaster went to light the Waiting Room fire.

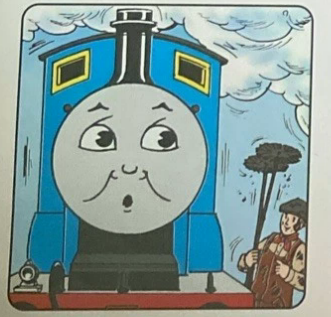


6. "We must keep our passengers warm while they wait for their trains, Edward," he called. But the Waiting Room chimney began puffing out thick smoke, just like a funnel.

7. It blew on to the station staff and some passengers. The smoke made everyone cough and splutter as if they had boiler ache, too. "Not more trouble!" sighed the Fat Controller.

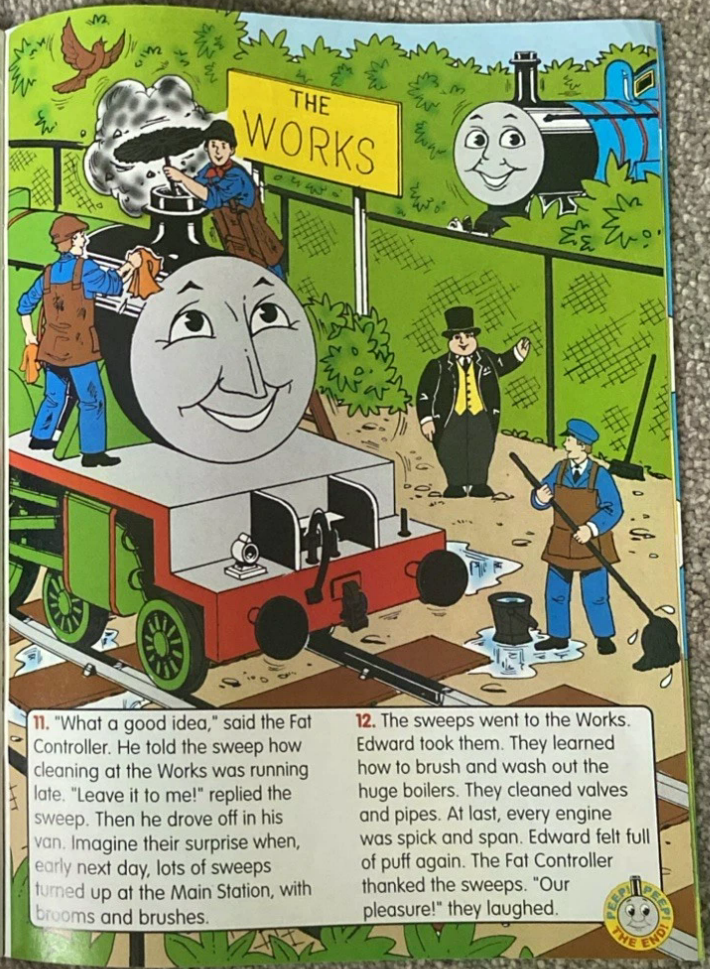


8. "That chimney must be swept," he added. A sweep arrived and he quickly set to work. Edward watched the sweep's big round brush pop up from above the chimney.



9. It nearly sent a shower of soot over him. "Phew! That was close!" gasped Edward. The sweep was covered in soot. Even his face was grimy. But he didn't mind.

10. "I'm used to getting dirty," he cheerfully told the Fat Controller. "Soot and coal dust are part of my job." "If you ask me, he'd be Really Useful at the Works," called Edward.



11. "What a good idea," said the Fat Controller. He told the sweep how cleaning at the Works was running late. "Leave it to me!" replied the sweep. Then he drove off in his van. Imagine their surprise when, early next day, lots of sweeps turned up at the Main Station, with brooms and brushes.

12. The sweeps went to the Works. Edward took them. They learned how to brush and wash out the huge boilers. They cleaned valves and pipes. At last, every engine was spick and span. Edward felt full of puff again. The Fat Controller thanked the sweeps. "Our pleasure!" they laughed.

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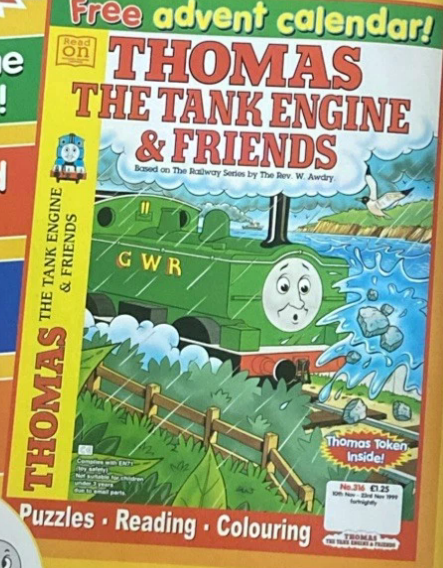

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Thomas Token

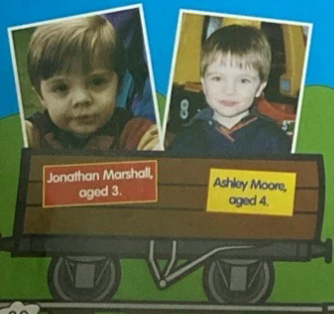
Ask an adult to cut out the token for you!

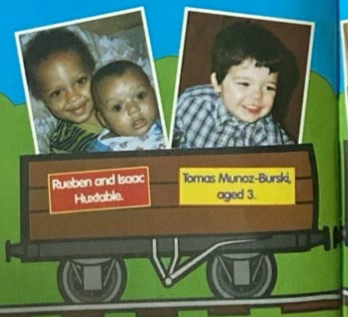
Star Letter

Dear Fat Controller,
Here's a poem that I wrote about Harold:
Harold the helicopter flies so high
That he can reach up to the sky.
From Charlotte Hannah Palmer.

That's a splendid rhyme, Charlotte. I think that Harold would feel very honoured.

If we print your STAR LETTER, you will receive a £10 voucher to spend on any items from The Official Thomas Catalogue, packed with Thomas goodies! To obtain a free copy, call 01403 242727 quoting reference FL.





Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a copy of Thomas' Party Pop-up book from Egmont Children's Books.

Stanley West, aged 4, has drawn this super picture of Mavis enjoying working in the sunshine.

4 year old Ryan Everitt has sent in this spendid drawing of Bertie the Bus.

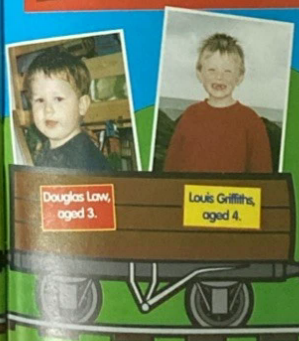
Thanks to Jonathan Denham, aged 5, for this picture of smiling Bulstrode the Barge.

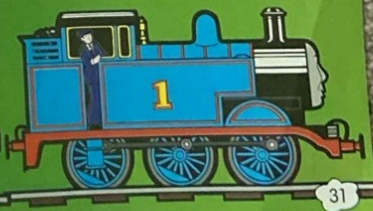
Happy Birthday!

To Sean Mooney, aged 3, Luke Bray, aged 3 , Luke Pallister, aged 3, Jack Sherlock, aged 4, Darren Norton, aged 3 & Ashley Ayres, aged 4.

Also to Matthew Penk, aged 4, Thomas Clarke, aged 3, Emily Woolnough, aged 4 Anthony Johnson, aged 6 & Jack Payne, aged 2.

Jake Turner, aged 5 and Connor Kavanagh, aged 7.





THOMAS
THE TANK ENGINE
& FRIENDS
DUKE
Duke